

but let's not try to make it impossible and let's let that nurse or counselor tell the girls what is in the law. There is nothing wrong with that. Let's treat them with a little bit of human dignity.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Will, on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Sometimes I think on issues like this our rhetoric gets a little carried away and we stray a little off the question. I just want to make a couple of points about this amendment and what it actually contains. There has been the word, "counseling" has been bandied about and I think counseling is a great idea but this amendment doesn't have anything to do with counseling. It simply says that a school nurse or counselor who discovers that an individual is pregnant, that that individual doesn't wish to inform her parents, and she is considering abortion, that at that time they simply explain the contents of the law to that young woman. No requirement that counseling take place at all, there is no hint of coercion contained in this amendment. The second thing is, and it is important to realize that this amendment does not place any hardship on any school district that does not have a school nurse or counselor. It doesn't give teachers any additional responsibilities. It simply says that if a nurse or counselor does come into contact with a woman that I just described, then that nurse or counselor has the duty to inform her of the law. If there is no nurse or counselor in a school district, this amendment simply would not apply. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Horgan had mentioned that there is a possibility of liability on the counselor or the nurse for carrying out the requirements of this amendment, should it be adopted. No, they will be protected from that, Senator Horgan, because it states specifically the information that they should give. So it is not a matter of them counseling or referring them to an abortion clinic, but merely informing them what the law states, and they could do that by reading it to them, or preparing something in the school, within the school system, that will make it clear the kind of information that they are giving. But I don't think the possibility of liability is why you object to it, and I